

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 20-26 are presently active in this case. Claims 20-26 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to; and claims 20-26 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent number 5,971,276 to Sano et al.

In response to the objection to the specification, the specification has been amended as recommended by the official action. No further objection is therefore anticipated.

Briefly recapitulating, the present invention provides a method including the steps of forming an invisible symbol on a substrate using a compound which includes a cyano group and which has an infrared absorption wavelength apart from that of the substrate when heated; and heating the invisible symbol formed on the substrate. A calculation is performed for determining differential coefficients of values corresponding to the threshold values, and the values are used for binarizing detected signals from the sample.

The Official Action asserts that Sano et al. anticipate claims 20-26. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that Sano et al. fail to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by claims 20-26 as amended as that patent fails to teach the calculation feature of the present invention.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Application No. 10/657,215
Reply to Office Action of April 30, 2004

An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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